

## WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THE CHEVIOT MINE?

### OPINION

**C**ardinal River Coals, a joint venture

between Luscar (AB) and CONSOL (US) have proposed a massive open-pit mine adjacent to Jasper National Park. Since the public hearings in January of 1997, the proposed Cheviot coal mine project has been a hot issue.

Although the company has been given the OK by both the Federal and Provincial government, the opposition against the mine has only gotten stronger.

A coalition of environmental groups have taken the Federal government to court and even international groups like the Sierra Club and the Rainforest Action Network are fighting this project.

Why is this one such a big deal? This is Alberta, we've been mining for years, the coal industry plays a big part in our economy. We may not like hurting the environment but it has to be done for jobs. Why are so many conservation groups and citizens across the world so concerned with this mining project?

To begin with, the mine threatens historical and traditional land use of indigenous people. An area within the proposed mine contains rare plants used by the Smallboy Camp people for medicinal purposes. For them, this area is irreplaceable.

Environmentally there are three significant issues.

**SIZE**- This mine is the width of the city of Edmonton. That is a big chunk of nature!

**TYPE**- It is an open-pit mine which means the project will be a series of 26 deep pits and valley-filling piles of waste rock some of which will be dumped into 8 streams, the habitat for threatened species of Bull and Athabasca trout and Harlequin ducks.

**LOCATION** - The Mountain Park/Cardinal Divide area is already designated as a Critical Wildlife Zone and it includes essential habitat for 27 species of birds and mammals listed as in trouble in Alberta. In addition, its location next to Jasper National Park means that many of the animals within the park rely on this area just outside of it as essential habitat.

There are alternative mine sites but although the Federal government is obligated to look at them before approving a project, it didn't.

It gets worse. CONSOL, the richest half of the company, has a horrible record for the way it treats the environment and people that stand in its way!



The Cardinal River Divide  
Proposed site of the Cheviot Coal Mine

#### CONSOL's track

record in the States includes over 80 violations of state and federal law since 1979. They pay fines instead of reclaiming, they have defrauded landowners, stolen coal and they have mined under churches and cemeteries. However, Canadians cannot legally compel foreign investors to reveal their environmental performance record abroad. Government considered the Cheviot project without considering the integrity of CONSOL's past actions.

This mine may not be the job provider that's been promised. Cheviot is a proposed 20 year project but CRC only has a contract with coal buyers for the first 3 years. The market for metallurgical coal (the type to be mined from Cheviot) has been steadily declining as cheaper alternatives and new technology have allowed lower grade coal from Australia to become most competitive in the coal market.

So if the company can't get another contract after three years what happens to all those promised jobs?

Finally, mining coal is not a choice for long-term jobs for a sustainable future. We have to deal with the reality of climate change and when there are alternative choices, we should be making them. Our governments are not taking the initiative to help communities dependent on resource extraction branch out into other areas. Our government needs to be pressured to help research and subsidize low impact uses of the natural environment.

There are alternative mine sites that are less damaging to the environment, better companies to entrust our future with, and an abundance of ways that we can wean ourselves off of being dependent on industries that are destroying our future.

**by Karina Gregory**

If you would like to be involved in helping stop this mine please tell your politicians directly, right a letter to your favorite paper or contact Karina Gregory at the Environmental Resource Centre, 433-8711. We'd love your support!

**Our Voice** the spare change magazine

AUGUST 1998 Vol. 5 No. 8

**SOLD BY DONATION**  
Please buy only from badged vendors.  
Your vendor pays 60¢ per copy.



**Sara McLachlan**  
**Lillith Princess**  
concert benefits Alberta women



# Our Voice

the spare change magazine

**Publishers:**  
Bissell Centre, Edmonton  
Edmonton City Centre Church  
Corporation, Edmonton

**Managing Editor**  
Michael Walters

**Design and Production**  
Keith Wiley

1-888-428-4001

**Editorial Office and  
Edmonton Distribution**  
Bissell Centre  
10527-96 Street • Edmonton •  
T5H 2H6  
Phone: 428-4001 • Fax: 497-7077

**Paper Distribution Calgary •**  
Phone: 508-9050 Fax: 508-9051

Office at the Calgary Native  
Friendship Centre • 140-2nd  
Avenue SW • Calgary, AB •  
T2P 0B9

**EMAIL:**  
sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

**OUR VOICE** is published to provide  
an income opportunity for  
economically marginalized people in  
our society while communicating  
about their issues to the public.

**OUR VOICE** is a NON-PROFIT  
program that survives on vendor  
sales, advertising contributions and  
donations.

#### ADVERTISING

For advertising rates and information,  
please contact

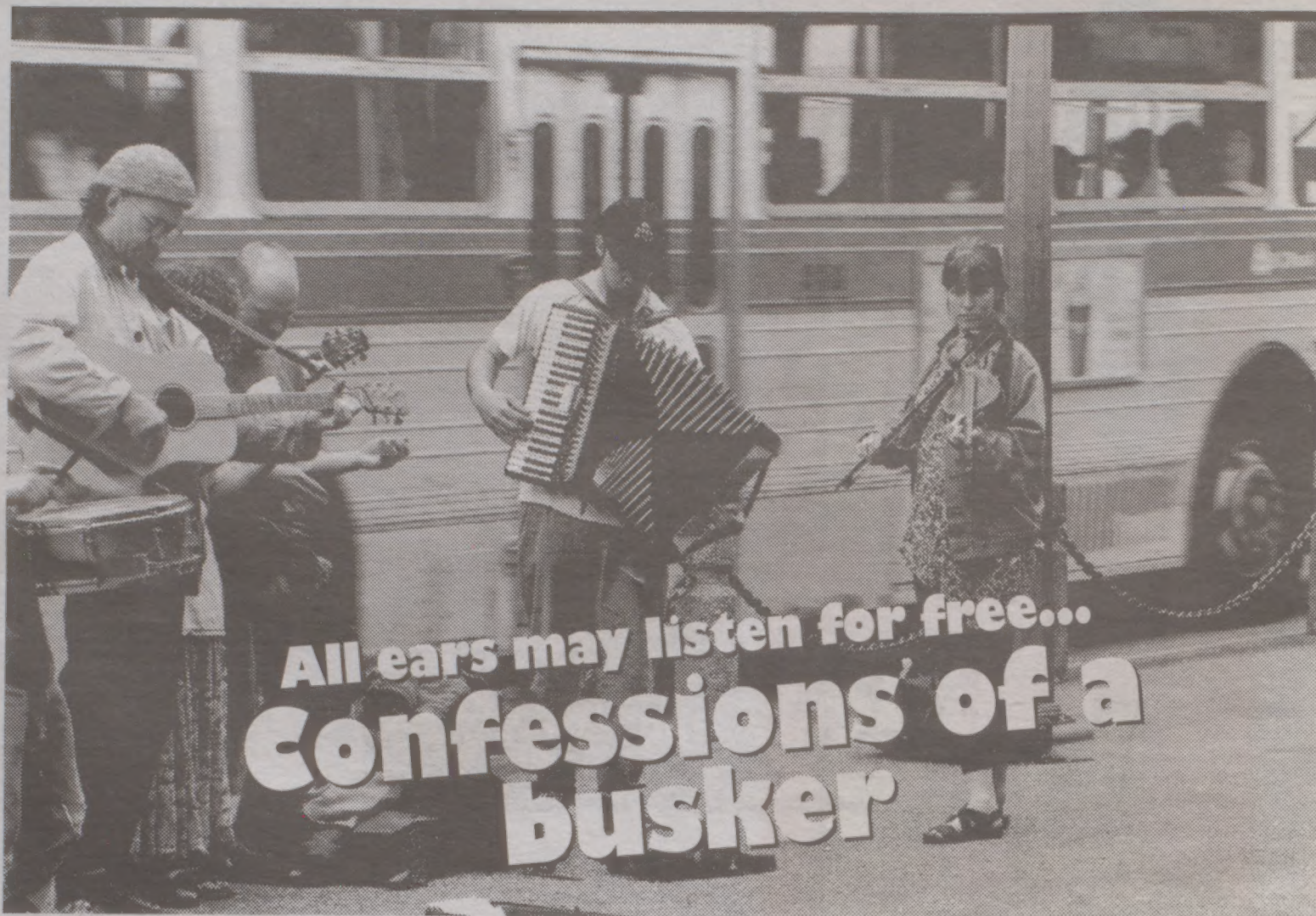
**CORINNE 423-2933** in Edmonton.  
**DEBBIE 508-9050** in Calgary.

**AUGUST 1998**  
Vol. 5 No. 8

**OUR VOICE** welcomes your contri-  
bution. Letters sent to the editor are  
assumed to be for publication, unless  
otherwise indicated. **OUR VOICE**  
welcomes written submissions, par-  
ticularly those on IBM or Mac com-  
patible computer disk, cartoons, pho-  
tographs or artwork. **OUR VOICE**  
cannot accept responsibility for any  
submission. No part of this newspa-  
per may be reproduced in any form  
without written permission from  
**OUR VOICE**.

Opinions expressed in this newspa-  
per are not necessarily those of  
**OUR VOICE**, the editors or publish-  
ers.

**OUR VOICE** is a member of  
the North American Street  
Newspaper Association



**BILL MACKINNON**

**M**y eyes are closed tight-  
ly and my teeth are  
clenched as the clubs  
come down one after  
another. The sound is  
like an amplified cho-  
rus of jack hammers. My eardrums feel as  
if they are about to explode. No, I'm not  
standing in front of the speakers at a punk  
gig. I open my eyes to find myself busking  
on Whyte ave. It's  
three in the morning  
and some drunk who  
thinks he's the reincar-  
nation of John  
Bonham has comman-  
deered my drumsticks  
and is beating out  
Moby Dick to his  
30,000 adoring (imagi-  
nary) fans. Well hey--  
it's not always this bad.  
Sometimes busking can  
be downright uplifting  
which is why I decided to write this article  
about my (sometimes) favourite pastime.

So what is busking? It is certainly more  
than just playing music for money. I  
turned down several well paying jobs so I  
could keep busking. Some people confuse  
it with begging but a busker never asks for  
money. I would say that busking is an  
opportunity to share one's talents with  
others. If people like the performer they  
too can share and not necessarily money  
either, although it really helps pay the  
rent. Actually I have been offered every-  
thing from jobs to guitar equipment to  
pizza to sex. For the most part buskers are  
just honest people trying to make a living.

Okay, so I lied about the sex.

But money and fame aside I think what  
makes busking most interesting is the peo-  
ple. Of course there are always guys (no  
offense but the culprits are mostly male)  
who want to test the breaking point of goat  
skin or show you their new juggling trick  
which involves your guitar, a hunk of pizza  
and a case of off-sales beer, but for the most  
part the people are really cool.

One day I was playing guitar on Whyte  
avenue when a mom and  
dad and their two kids  
stopped to listen to me.  
I don't know too many  
kids songs and to be  
honest I was a little ner-  
vous and wondered what  
I should play. I was  
thinking that many of  
my songs were a little  
too racy for children,  
with swears and topics  
you don't often hear dis-  
cussed on 'Barney and  
Friends'.

Much to my surprise the six year old  
boy requested an Iron Maiden song.  
Unfortunately, I didn't know the song but  
that didn't stop him from reciting the song  
in its entirety (nasty lyrics included). I  
guess his parents didn't see the explicit  
lyrics sticker!

My brother and I were drumming in our  
usual spot at the bus stop when a friend  
stopped by and started meditating. Well,  
this was great. How peaceful and serene.  
We started to attract a lot of attention,  
most of which came from people who  
thought we belonged to some kind of pub-  
lic transit cult. Fine by us perhaps, but

**STREET BUSKERS** by Vancouver  
photographer Duncan Murdoch.

some local panhandlers decided we were  
getting too much attention and asked us to  
move on. Wow, I never thought I'd be  
asked to move along by beggars! The two  
were about sixteen, long-ish hair, baggy  
ripped jeans. As they approached I  
thought, "what a great opportunity to  
communicate with the youth of today".  
"Hey dude, what's shakin?" I asked in my  
best street jive. "What's that old hippy  
tryin' to say?" one of them remarked. He  
went on to inform my brother and I that  
we were "cuttin' his grass".

I must be waaay out of touch because I  
didn't understand what he meant.  
Apparently he meant that people were giv-  
ing us money that should have been theirs.

Now, I don't mind people asking for  
money, but these were the boldest kids I'd  
ever come across. My brother told them  
how long we had worked to learn the  
drums so we could come out and play, and  
how we were providing people with enter-  
tainment. I didn't feel too bad about com-  
peting with them. It was the streets.

Despite such little tribulations, interact-  
ing with people is one of the more enjoy-  
able parts of busking. The people who stop  
by to sing and dance and tell us how much  
they enjoy our music make it all worth-  
while.

Well as fun as writing can be, it's back to  
busking for me. So if you're passing by and  
you have a twenty burning a hole in your  
pocket, we'd be happy to relieve you of it.  
If you can't spare a dime, that's okay too.  
As the famous busker, Steve Forbert says,  
"all ears may listen for free". ♦



BY MICHAEL  
WALTERS

Sarah McLachlan's vision for the now famous Lillith Fair was to create an event that would celebrate women in music. What most people do not know is that the Fair has provided a great deal of help to women who feel they have little reason to celebrate their lives.

Last year Lillith was the top grossing music tour in North America. In its second year Lillith Fair has already surpassed last year's total number of tickets sold; over 600,000 tickets across North America.

"It was a great example of strong women out there doing something they love, doing something really positive," says Sarah McLachlan.

The tour has also recognized that many women in our society don't have the strength they should have. Too many women are still being abused and not allowed to become who they can be. That is why the tour donates one dollar from every ticket sold to a women's shelter in each city.

Lillith Fair comes to Alberta in late August, stopping in Calgary on August 28th and Edmonton on the 29th. In Calgary the recipient of Lillith Fair's goodwill is the Discovery House.

"The support we get aside from financial, is that it raises the profile of our agency in the community. It helps provide to women who are abused, the information of where to go for support. For others it gives them the knowledge of how to get involved in stopping abuse they may know of," says Norma Peters, Executive Director of Discovery House.

Discovery House is a long-term shelter for abused women and their children. They offer counseling for families who deal with abuse, even men who abuse.

In part they offer a residential program to provide women a safe place to stay when they can't go back home. Their major focus however, is counseling and community work with, as well, a twenty four hour crisis line.

"A lot of the families we work with are poor, so we try to work with many other service agencies. We have to help the women meet their basic needs," says Peters. "It's tough because we are always full. Every residential program and community program is full. We owe a lot to our 200 some volunteers. Last year alone they put in more than 11,000 hours."

"Our programs really focus on making people feel better about themselves, helping them define abuse, acknowledging what they tell us and giving them safety."

In Edmonton the charity supported by Lillith



Fair is WIN House, the Edmonton Women's Shelter which operates two shelters in Edmonton, providing a combined 51 beds. They are also full all the time.

They provide support for women and children who are leaving abusive relationships. Because of their focus on children, WIN House often refers women without children to other protective agencies in the city.

"We have to give the kids all we can. We have to let them be kids and at the same time show their mothers that they have the strength to become good mothers to their children," says Ione Challborn, Executive Director of WIN House.

WIN House attempts to allow the women to re-establish themselves by offering unlimited support. They give them a secret safe place to be, food, clothes and all the basic necessities.

"Abuse happens regardless of socioeconomic status. When women decide to leave, they become immediately poor. Money is often a means of control for abusive males. The women have to find support in other ways," says Challborn.

"Women who leave come to us and think they are the cause of the violence. We work at making them understand these cycles of violence and define whose fault it really is. It's an action of strength to make the choice to leave. We affirm that. It's important because abused women are constantly belittled."

Lillith Fair's support of the shelter is extremely important. WIN House also relies heavily on volunteers. They used more than 10,000 volunteer hours last year alone.

"The tour creates awareness which will lead to prevention which is the ultimate goal. To be attached to a women's concert of this nature, a way to celebrate women, is very special to us."

Again the date for Calgary is Friday, August 28 at McMahon Stadium and Edmonton on Saturday, August 29 at Commonwealth Stadium. \$1 from every ticket sold will go to assist these two women's shelters. ♦



**PM ELECTRIC LTD.**

COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL WIRING  
• Calgary • Edmonton

12925 - 148 St., Edmonton, Alta.

**454-6490**

**FRONTIER  
CATERERS LTD.**



405 - 18 Ave., Nisku, AB

**955-2600**



**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters**

**ARLENE CHAPMAN**  
Provincial Coordinator

#2, 12739 Fort Road  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5A 1A7

Tel: (403) 456-7000  
Fax: (403) 456-7001  
acws@connect.ab.ca



**BONNIE LAING, M.L.A.**

CALGARY BOW CONSTITUENCY  
CHAIR, STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE  
ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS:  
130 LEGISLATURE BLDG.  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
T5K 2B6  
TEL: (403) 427-1811  
FAX: (403) 427-0388

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:  
#350, 4500 - 16TH AVENUE N.W.  
CALGARY, ALBERTA T3B 0M6  
TEL: (403) 216-5400  
FAX: (403) 216-5402  
RES: (403) 288-0603

**ROMYN - JANISSE &  
ASSOCIATES LTD.**

SUB-CONTRACT FRAMING

**John Romyne**

Box 150, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1N2  
Phone: 459-2352 • Cell: 940-5222

**248 ABBOTSFIELD MALL**

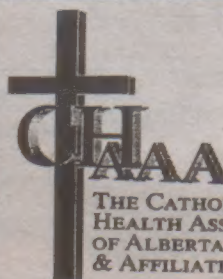
**3210 118TH AVENUE**

**EDMONTON, AB T5W 4W1**

**THE CANDORA SOCIETY OF EDMONTON**

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TEL: (403) 474-5011  
FAX: (403) 474-5041



THE CATHOLIC  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
OF ALBERTA  
& AFFILIATES

**Kathleen O'Neill**  
Joint Executive Director

6R, 11111 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L4  
(403) 488-8074  
Fax: 488-8077

email: Chaaa@compusmart.ab.ca



MOBILE

**HAVE WRENCH**  
21 YRS. EXP.  
**WILL TRAVEL**

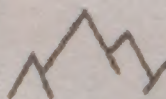
- MAJOR & MINOR AUTO REPAIRS
- ENGINE SWAPS & RECONDITIONING
- INSURANCE INSPECTIONS
- PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTIONS
- IMPORT • DOMESTIC



**720-8228**

"WE RUN FOR YOU" Calgary

7 DAYS / WEEK \$35 / HR



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY OF EDMONTON**

*Every Child Has The Right To A Family*

#650 10909 Jasper Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3L9

429-5990  
Fax 429-6106

## ACADIA HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Career opportunities in your own home as part of a professional team.

- Provide a therapeutic home environment for adolescents
- Receive support, training and \$1200/month remuneration

**Careers as Treatment Foster Families**  
Call Jean Murray at 433-5511



"We salute all those working to end family violence."

Southgate Mall  
51 Avenue and 111 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
434-1549

Heritage Mall  
2323-111 Street,  
Edmonton, AB  
988-6962

Saluting all those whose hard work promotes Aboriginal Economic Development from

**Fond Du Lac Economic Development Corporation**



Tel (306) 686-4856 or Fax (306) 686-2040

**Tel (306) 686-4856 or Fax (306) 686-2040**

Fond Du Lac Development Corp.  
Box 211, Fond Du Lac, SK S0J 0W0

OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK

**"LOWEST PRICES AROUND"**

**Credit not so good**  
**Great Credit**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER**

**Need a Car Right Now?**

**For Immediate Approval**

**on Any Make or Model**

**New or Used**

**All Price Ranges Available**

**Call Peter at 433-1069**

**Out of Town call 1-877-433-1069**

OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK

## COMMENTARY

# Pam Barrett on the Premier's answers to Ten Questions



Two months ago in *Our Voice*, Premier Ralph Klein responded to "Ten Questions from the Street". This month we have a second guest column commenting on the Premier's answers to those tough questions.

So I've read the ten questions that people in the inner city asked the premier, and I have read his responses, and I've just got to ask, what planet is this guy living on? It's nowhere near the planet I live on, in my constituency of Edmonton Highlands, where I represent the inner city of Edmonton.

Maybe the key is that Klein says he's had the opportunity to visit inner city areas in our province... visiting them for an hour or two isn't the same as living here, is it? Maybe that's why he's so out of touch.

I guess that's why Klein talks about Albertans having the lowest tax regime in the country. So, for example, if you happen to be Syncrude or Suncor, you get a tax royalty break of almost half a billion dollars! (and pollute the environment with greenhouse gas too) That royalty holiday tells me that the poor are

paying the rich man's debt, as Reg Sinclair suggested in his question. You don't see Klein giving half a billion dollars to social programs! But let's face it. Tax rates don't matter if you don't have a taxable income. What matters is income - money to buy food and a place to live.

Klein doesn't seem to like welfare too much, at least not for regular folks. But if you're a big company the money rolls out. Maybe he thought the \$400 million he gave to Millar Western and ALPAC pulp mills was welfare. It certainly wasn't a loan because they didn't have to pay it back.

Klein says "being on welfare isn't the solution" to the problems people are having. Of course it's not the solution. He cut them off! Klein says there are many programs in place to help people try to get off welfare... but we all know they aren't working for everyone. In fact Ron said it best in his question to the premier. He said "there are Social Service programs that keep people caught in the system". For example, if you've never finished high school, then a job finding club isn't going to help you much. Employers rarely hire anyone

without a high school diploma. Maybe we need more ways to finish school part time. That might be the solution that would help people out of the system instead of staying stuck.

Darlene asked about welfare rates for single parents: she gets \$700 a month on assistance. If she was working minimum wage she'd make \$800 a month. Alberta's minimum wage is one of the lowest in Canada, and still will be after the proposed increase in 1999. We all know that a single parent cannot support a family on minimum wage anymore than they can on welfare. I don't call that a strong economy Mr. Klein.

And even if you get a low paying job - there are still problems. Klein brags about health care premium subsidies: what he doesn't tell you is that Alberta is only one of two provinces that actually charge for health care. Klein doesn't real-

ize that a child care subsidy is of no help when the day care centres all close at 6 pm and someone works till 10 pm.

Klein says that he's created a strong economy with jobs and opportunities for everyone. I don't see that. I see that there are few programs to help people, and if you don't fit into it, well, too bad. I think that's what Colleen Bird meant when she asked about the rut of poverty. Doesn't Klein get it? If people are still feeling

like they are caught in a rut, then obviously his strong economy isn't working for everybody. A government that really cared would put programs and resources in place to meet the many different ways that people need help.

Everybody needs to be listened to, not just the wealthy and the powerful. We need programs that matter and speak to real needs.

You see it's possible to run a province as if people matter - as one of the founders of the New Democratic Party said, "From each according to their needs." Sounds kind of like the golden rule eh? Not a bad way to govern the province... people before profits! ♦

*Pam Barrett is the MLA for Edmonton Highlands and Leader of the Alberta New Democrats*



**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.**

Call and leave your comment: 1-888-428-4001 Toll Free



# A Right to Housing?

Is this really a question? Do people in our society have a right to housing? Do people, no matter who they are, deserve to have a roof over their heads? Or don't they?

Housing has become a serious issue lately in Calgary and in Edmonton. With Calgary's economy booming and statistics revealing that some two thousand people are moving to Calgary every month, the housing crunch is on. How far behind is Edmonton?

Rental rates in Calgary are through the roof. The average one bedroom apartment goes for somewhere around six hundred dollars a month. This is still barely affordable for those people coming to town with new jobs waiting for them. Some have been picking up the low income rentals at rates higher than would be offered to low income people. The trend is beginning as well in Edmonton. Low income housing is no longer low-cost housing.

So what about the people who live on small fixed incomes. The people who for many reasons are unable to find employment or who are unemployable in the market place. The ones who subsist on AISH, SFI, disability pensions and those who sell this magazine to earn a living. What they earn gets them very little in the way of a roof.

All the shelters are full, all of the time. People are staying with family and friends. These are short term arrangements, not homes. These people are always looking for somewhere to go. This is how people come to live on the streets. They run out of money and support. They have nowhere else to go and now it's getting harder for the poor to find housing. So the question is there and a little watered down. In our current economy, with such a demand for housing, do poor people have a right to housing they can't afford? If we say that they don't, than we as a society are saying that we accept homelessness. But I would venture to say that even those who try to avoid the issue cannot tell themselves that people living on the streets is an acceptable reality. It is wrong for people anywhere, let alone in a province as wealthy as ours, to live on the streets. Shelter is a primary need of human life.

The economy is booming in Alberta, but at the same time, the number of homeless people is on the rise. Somewhere between these two facts some things are tragically wrong. A healthy economy doesn't change anything for those who are unable to take advantage of it. They remain poor and are still left out in the cold. ♦

# The power of nature

On July 8th, a group of **Our Voice** vendors piled into a van and headed out to Lake Wabamun for a day of sun, trees and raw earth. We don't realize how important the power of nature is until we experience it with those who rarely have the chance to enjoy it.

In my life I have unlimited ability to leave the chaos and fumes of the city, to immerse myself in the wilderness, to swim in a lake or hike through the mountains. However many people do not have these simple luxuries. Limited by little money and no transportation, many never have the chance to enjoy the natural beauties that lay beyond the city limits.

Most of the people who were able to visit Lake Wabamun that day are only able to go as far as a city bus or their feet will take them. The appreciation for nature was very evident. People who are mostly hyper and anxious were calm and peaceful. They drifted slowly across the lake in canoes or they dozed silently on the clean grass. Those who usually held frowns and looks of sadness on their faces, seemed evened out and content. Many still talked about their stresses back in the city, but they did so with an ease in their words. It was obviously a very healthy thing for all of them.

As I experienced it with them, the trip gave me a new appreciation for what nature has to offer. It breeds calm emotion, it's good for the soul and for the mind. I realized how important it is to me and I can do it basically whenever I want. I imagined how powerful and relieving it was for those folks who may only get to experience it a few times in their whole lives. It is something I know I can never take for granted. ♦

Michael Walters

## Editorial OPINION

**Our Voice** the spare change magazine

Shame, shame, shame on you

## Feeling bad with environmental paralysis?

*"You're looking at the primary polluter of our urban beaches whenever you look in the bathroom mirror."*

—Headline in July '98 Readers' Digest

Just ask your therapist, they'll tell you guilt is a poor motivator. In fact, feeling guilty is an effective paralyzer when it comes to changing anything at all. Perhaps that's part of the power of the embarrassment we feel about driving the car on that short trip—I didn't have time to walk it—or throwing out all that plastic wrapping, or, just this once, garbaging all that moldy old refrigerator experiment, instead of composting it.

Nearly everyone has some sense that our modern lifestyle is environmentally unsustainable, we can't go on like this. Our car's exhaust is the biggest single source of greenhouse gases. The packaging we buy our food in is filling up huge landfills. The huge waste of disposable society is chewing up the planet's resources. Even every newspaper like this one is more dead trees. But, like the guilty cigarette smoker, we're just powerless to stop.

Before it's too late. That's right, it's just too scary to think about every day isn't it? There's a lot of denial here, too.

But should you feel guilty about driving your car? What choice do you have really? The problem isn't you and your choices. Our whole lives are run on cars: getting to work, getting the groceries, getting the kids to the lessons. Go ahead, be the first on your block to stop driving. What a tremendous disadvantage you'd have. That's a sacrifice too big for the individual. No, the only way it will work is if society can adapt, together, with changes that we can all live with.

Wrapping up each of us in our individual guilt helps camouflage the larger problem, and the larger solutions that we will need to face with our environment. It's not, as Readers' Digest implies, that it's your fault for having a toilet. Try doing without one of those.

The environmental movement has done a great deal of exhorting us to chip in and do our part. And sure it helps. Everyone turn down the thermostat, fix that leaky tap. But it doesn't deal with the larger questions of coal mining, greenhouse gases, or sewage disposal. Does it in fact, partially block us from going on to the big questions that have to be political? As a society we are facing a political failure in dealing with the environmental crisis. The environmental movement needs to take some leadership to move us ahead and out of the guilt and fear-ridden paralysis. Only big solutions, big social choices that are going to have to be political, will really work. ♦

Keith Wiley



"Well, as long as this pollution stuff doesn't affect me I don't care..."





Phone (403) 428-6981  
Fax (403) 428-1581

## EARTHKEEPING

Food and Agriculture in Christian Perspective

Working toward a just and sustainable food system  
from producer to consumer, both locally and globally

205, 10711 - 107 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0W6



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
CHAPELHOW BRANCH #284  
606 - 38th Avenue N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 8J9

This donation is from the members of:  
The Chapelhow Branch #248  
The Royal Canadian Legion  
606 - 38 Avenue NE  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 8J9

## KAPOWN CENTRE

### Rehabilitation & Treatment Centre

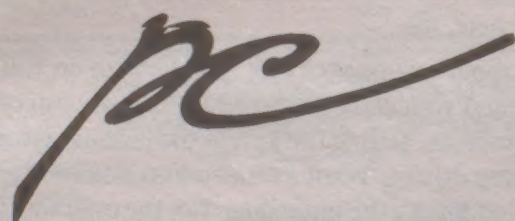
Chemical dependency services directed toward  
people 16 years of age and older.

- Minimum 6 week residential program.
- Continuous intake. • 24-hour in-patient care.

Kapown Centre Box 40  
Grouard, Alberta T0G 1C0  
(403) 751-3921 FAX: 751-3831



## Best Wishes from



The Alberta Progressive  
Conservative Association

9916-106 Street, Edmonton T5K 1E2 423-1624

## One-Stop Earth and Environmental Consulting Services Worldwide

- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Environmental Audit
- Soil & Groundwater Remediation
- Waste Management
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Indoor Air
- Air Quality Assessments
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Soils & Materials Testing
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Contaminant Assessments
- Public Participation
- Hydrogeology
- Asbestos
- Socio-economical Assessments
- Analytical Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Materials Engineering



**AGRA**  
Earth & Environmental

CALGARY  
Phone: 248-4331  
Fax: 248-2188  
221 - 18 St. S.E.,  
Calgary, AB T2E 6J5

EDMONTON  
Phone: 436-2152  
Fax: 435-8425  
4810-93 Street,  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5M4

## ALL ABORIGINAL FILM PRODUCTION

# A journey of forgiveness of fathers



*How do we forgive our Fathers? Maybe in a dream...*

*Do we forgive our fathers for leaving us too often or forever when we were little? Maybe for scaring us with unexpected rage, or making us nervous because there never seemed to be any rage at all.*

*Do we forgive our fathers for marrying or not marrying our mothers? For divorcing or not divorcing our mothers? And shall we forgive them for their excesses of warmth or coldness?*

*Do we forgive our fathers in our age or in theirs? Or in their deaths? Saying it to them or not saying it?*

*If we forgive our fathers, what is left?*

Adapted for the final word narrative of "Smoke Signals" from "Forgiving Our Fathers" by Dick Lourie.

Smoke Signals is a full length feature film written, directed and co-produced by American Indians. It tells a story of modern day Native experience that delivers a poignant, universal, contemporary tale about growing up, and about Native fathers trying to be fathers.

The themes are special to the current way of life for Natives, but this film strips away stigmas of race, colour or social status by showing a journey of healing, discovery and acceptance.

For many native people, life on reservations is not much more than isolation and restlessness, leading to substance abuse, violence and tragedy. This film does not try to hide this. It tells the story of a man who, while drunk, burns down the home of his friends while they sleep inside. The man,

Arnold Joseph, manages to save his friend's infant son as well as his own son. No one else knows he is responsible. He carries around this tragic secret and only alcohol kept his guilt at bay. Eventually the drinking, which leads to abuse becomes too much of a torture for his wife and his son so he vanishes. His wife is left to raise his son and his son is forced to grow up without a father.

The film avoids the "plight of the Indian" theme. Instead, it inspires through the characters' storytelling. It is told from the "Indian's" point of view: an honest portrayal of a culture in constant crisis, a culture clawing to regain dignity and to maintain the traditions of spirit. It shows people struggling to live out their needs for family and home with great difficulty.

When Arnold Joseph dies, his son Victor journeys out to retrieve his father's belongings, all the while trying to satisfy a jaded need to forgive his father. He struggles with his refusal to be weak or vulnerable in the eyes of those he travels amongst, even in his own eyes. He is filled with displaced spite and anger.

"This is a haunting film for me," says director Chris Eyre. "Here's a guy (Arnold Joseph) who wanted to go home and ask forgiveness from his son, but instead dies alone a thousand miles away. For Indians, especially, a sense of home is such a strong thing, whether you have stability or dislocation."

The film, according to screenwriter Sherman Alexie, also offers an organic glimpse at the Native condition.

"While Victor goes about his search, all the while in the background you can see where tribal people are at this moment: mostly we are poor, mostly we are fragmented. The need for family and meaning in all that occurs is strong. Many of us feel we deserve better than what we've received, but we're still optimistic."

The film conveys a universal message about growing up and people trying to find a place while dealing with serious personal issues, though at the same time it is a completely Native story, one that offers an honest look into the common and very serious situations that many Native families live with. ♦

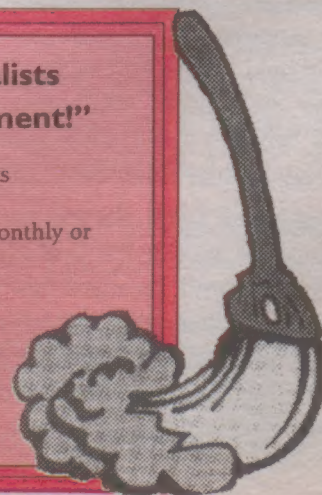
Michael Walters

## "Your Customized Cleaning Specialists We Give Your Home the Royal Treatment!"

- Satisfying our Customers (Since 1989)
- Bonded and Insured
- Gift Certificates Available
- Move Ins/ Move Outs
- Walls & Windows
- Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly or Occasional



**Dust Queen**  
448-4973 Inc.





**N**early beaten to death with a baseball bat back in May, Darcy Letendre, an inner city resident, is back in his old haunts, and talking about the experience.

"I can't remember that day at all," says Darcy. "The homicide detectives came and told me what went down when I woke up from my coma."

Darcy suffered a fractured skull, two broken legs, four broken ribs and had half of his left ear torn off. He was discovered bloody and unconscious in an inner city alley by an elderly woman, who quickly called an ambulance. He was in a coma for seven days. He then spent two weeks in the University of Alberta hospital and then two more weeks in the Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre.

Darcy doesn't know why the man who beat him did it.

"This kind of stuff is happening all the time. I don't feel angry at him. I'm just happy to be alive."

This was far from the first time Darcy has been victim of violence. He says he has also been shot, stabbed and run over by a car. His face and body is a resting place for hundreds of scars. He says he has been on the giving end of many violent acts, too, and has no idea how many fights he has been involved with in his life. There have been too many. He says he has witnessed many of his friends suffer life threatening beatings. Some of them have died or their injuries accelerated their mortality.

**H**e says he has also been shot, stabbed and run over by a car. His face and body is a resting place for hundreds of scars.

At times it seems there is no end to the violence among people who live in the inner city. Many are in constant struggle and are basically fighting

*"I've been beaten up before for no reason and the people who do it feel bad about it after. They're confused and pissed off at something. I've done it too. I don't know why I do it most of the time."*

## Darcy Letendre Alive and... well?



every day to survive. Desperation and many forms of addiction feed tremendous amounts of displaced anger.

"I've been beaten up before for no reason and the people who do it feel bad about it after. They're confused and pissed off at something. I've done it too. I don't know why I do it most of the time," says Darcy.

Since being released from the hospital Darcy has been staying with his sister in east Edmonton, but has also been drawn back to the streets.

"I come for the support of my friends. The streets are my home. It's where I get support and understanding."

With the help of a wheelchair at first and now a cane, Darcy has been getting around well. His streets friends have also been, what he considers, a big help in aiding him in his travels.

"I'm healing up pretty good. I feel so lucky that I can walk and talk. I should've died. I almost did."

Darcy feels like this is his chance to get his life back on track, but admits that with his problems of addiction and the years of street life, it will make it difficult for him to do that.

"My sister doesn't drink and she thinks I should straighten out. I stay there as much as I can, but some nights I can't make it there, so I stay at the Spady (George Spady Centre) or on the street. I can't move around as well as I used to. I'm still in quite a bit of pain," he says.

"I guess to tell the truth I don't feel as panicked to put things back together as I did before I was beat up. I came so close to dying, but I didn't, so now I really appreciate being alive, no matter how I live. I wake up every day and smell the air and see the sun and see my family and my friends, I'm really very lucky to be where I am."

Michael Walters

### WHERE'S THE DREAM KITCHEN?

## Aboriginal people often find it hard to make a home in the city

BY LINDA DUMONT

**"I'm** working with a family with six children," says Sharon Star from the housing registry at Edmonton's Boyle Street Co-op. "Social housing won't accept them because they have too many social problems. They are staying at a motel. If they can't get a place, child welfare will take the children. The mom is going to a treatment centre and she's trying to deal with her issues. They are under the gun right now. There are too many cases like this."

Star sees an acute need for more housing for aboriginal people. There is not enough new housing being built on

the reserves, so people come to the city. No one wants to rent to them. They have no rental history, and even with social housing you need a damage deposit up front. Getting on to social assistance can be an insurmountable barrier.

"People can't even get a rent confirmation, so they become the hidden homeless," said Star. "You need a rent confirmation to start the process to get on welfare."

Few landlords will rent without a damage deposit up front, so people are homeless longer.

Many Aboriginal families have four or more children. Star is concerned about the futures of the children.

"The only places they will be accepted

a lot of times is the inner city with the slum landlords, and the cycle starts all over again so you perpetuate the problem," she said.

There is often an extended family with uncles and aunts and cousins. Relatives coming from the reserve and unable to find housing, move in. The family can't understand why the landlord objects to having extra people in the accommodation.

"More people use more utilities. We are having one-on-one education dealing with landlord issues. We are looking at a Life Skills type of program to orient people coming off the reserves to the city."

Star attended the recent Housing Symposium held in Edmonton June 15 to 16. She came away feeling that the needs of the poorest of the poor are not being addressed, especially for aboriginal people.

June Callwood, keynote speaker at the symposium, said, "We have to talk about the children. The aboriginal people are either going to be in silent fury or despair."

"Natives are coming from rural to urban," said Star. "The children are going to grow up. There is the potential for more violence and urban ghettos. This will be the trend." ♦



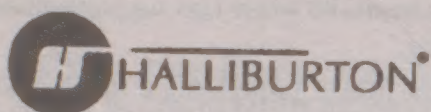




**Building Better Futures**

10450 - 42 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T6J 6X4

Telephone: (403) 437-8080  
Facsimile: (403) 435-2020



**HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES**

1000, 333-5 Avenue SW Office: 403-231-9400  
Calgary, Alberta Fax: 403-231-9366  
Canada T2P 3B6

**10% Discount for Our Voice Readers.**



Tel. 910-2913  
Tel. 968-2375 After Hours  
Fax.

**Cowan & Shopik\***

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

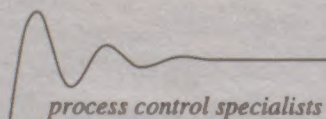
101,14420 - 116 Avenue 600,10655 Jasper Avenue  
Tel: (403) 455-4883 Tel: (403) 448-7445  
Fax: (403) 455-4920 Fax: (403) 421-1270

\*PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

**Arico Instruments Ltd.**

*"Working for a better tomorrow"*

9241 - 35 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6E 5Y1



**Edmonton TRANSPORTATION**

15th Floor, CENTURY PLACE  
9803-102A AVENUE  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5J 3A3  
(403) 496-2812  
Fax: (403) 496-2803



**NIGHTHAWK  
Manufacturing Inc.**

**"Your One  
Stop Cushion  
Shop"**

Electronic Heat Sealing • Quality  
Wheelchair Upholstery  
Cushions and Accessories

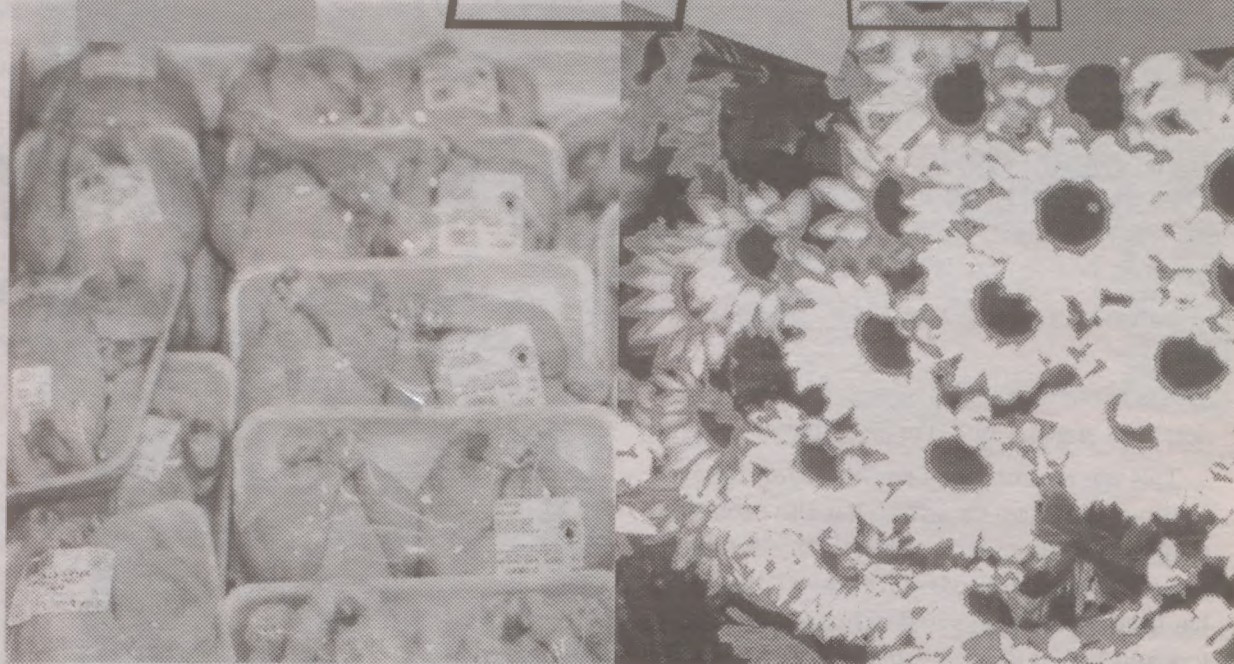
#2-51331 Range Road 224 (403) 922-4882  
Sherwood Park, AB Fax (403) 922-4451  
Canada T8C 1H3 1-800-661-6247

**29 years in Alberta!**

**L & T Mix  
SAND AND GRAVEL LTD.**

L & T Mix Sand & Gravel Ltd., 2nd Floor,  
8020 - 50th St., Leduc, AB T9E 7G3  
Phone (403) 986-6721  
After hours (403) 986-1890

# POETRY



## Cry of the Streets

When I am hungry,  
give me someone in need of food.  
When I am thirsty,  
give me someone in need of drink.  
When I am cold,  
give me someone to warm.  
When I am grieved,  
offer me someone to console.  
When my cross grows heavy,  
let me share the cross of another.  
When I am poor,  
lead me someone in need.  
When I have little time,  
give someone I can help for a little while.  
When I am humiliated,  
give me someone to praise.  
When I am disheartened,  
send me someone to cheer up.  
When I need understanding,  
give me someone who needs mine.  
When I need to be looked after,  
send me someone to care for.  
When I think only of myself,  
draw my thoughts to another.

Margo Nolan

## New poetry book hits the streets

**SONGS  
OF THE  
STREET**

*"This poetry  
is not just  
written,  
it is lived."*

Volume III of  
Songs of the  
Streets is now  
on sale for  
\$5 at a cor-  
ner near  
you.



## Today

As you go about your day today  
and you see the birds, our feathered  
friends.  
Listen to their songs of life.

Our four-legged friends  
who walk beside us, love us, feed us  
protect us  
Look into their eyes...

Take a deep breath  
smell the fragrant flowers,  
see the beauty all around you,  
from plants and trees.  
Hear the wind, feel its loving touch.

Be reminded every day of all the gifts  
received... from our Mother Earth.

Aylieh Xaveriss

## Turmoil

Morning bringing crank grinding  
thoughts  
like an uncoiled machine deep beneath  
a mineshaft.  
Restlessness, cigarettes and erections-  
all unsatisfactory and stale  
and outside the world pounds  
like an irregular heartbeat in the chest  
of a weasel stealing gold plated eggs.  
I'm not sure if I belong out there  
trudging through the manure  
of this urban coop  
or if I should back away and remain  
alone and evenly neurotic  
within the quiet mess  
of my low cost apartment  
wondering if I will ever be content.

Marvin Ends



# NEWS OF THE WORLD

## Cursing at the baldheaded bank manager

People have been going to bizarre lengths to cure baldness. In Sussex, John Wickham has been standing on his head for two hours daily to promote hair growth. More extreme have been the measures adopted by balding Turkish bank manager Selim Gunshay, who has instructed staff to swear at him in an effort to restore a full head of hair. Mr Gunshay, 52, of Erzerum, tried numerous baldness remedies before turning to insult therapy. "Someone told me the trauma of being sworn at can stimulate follicle growth," he explained. "Nothing

else had worked, so I thought I might as well give it a go." Mr Gunshay duly sent a memo to staff ordering them to insult him at every available opportunity. "It was hard at first," admitted one cashier. "But then the assistant manager called him a four-eye tosser and the floodgates opened. Mr Gunshay now undergoes eight hours of abuse at work before returning home for more from his wife and 12 children, although so far there's been no improvement in his hair line. "I've been touched by how many people have come forward to help me," he said.

## Punch-drunk jealous husband caught taping

It's been another week of romantic revenge. In Pontypridd, a jilted husband was arrested for painting all his former wife's shoes red. "I feel much better now," he admitted. Not so American Chad Bibbings, who suffered severe concussion after trying to tape record his ex-wife in bed with her new lover. Mr Bibbings, 51, of Nebraska, had vowed revenge after wife Marlene left him for a younger man. "She's very prim," he chuckled, "so I decided to tape the two of them having sex, and then send the recording to all her friends." To this end Mr

Bibbings, armed with a mini-cassette recorder, broke into his ex-wife's house and hid beneath the bed, waiting patiently until his prey returned home and got down to action. What he hadn't counted on, however, was the action being quite as vigorous, the bottom of the bed repeatedly slamming into him, "like Mike Tyson's fist", until he could take no more and was forced to alert those above to his presence. "I was going to give him a good thumping," said Mrs Bibbings' new lover, "but he was already so punch-drunk that I just called an ambulance.

## Get this house-breaker into your neighbourhood

Criminals have been displaying a more caring face of late. In New Haven, car thieves returned a man's stolen Vauxhall with a new ignition. "They did a better job than the garage," said the delighted owner. In Austria, meanwhile, considerate burglars have been completely redecorating their victims' homes. The first reported case of the house-proud hoodlums occurred in a small village near Vienna, where a man returned from a weekend business trip to discover that his flat had been broken into and entirely repainted. "They did a marvellous job," he

enthused. "The colour scheme was perfect, and considering they only took a bit of silver it was cheap at the price." There have to date been a further four reported incidents of breaking and redecorating, including one house that was entirely rewired while its owners were away on holiday, and another that had all its carpets shampooed. "We've no idea who's behind it," said on senior police officer, "but several detectives have very kindly offered their houses as bait to help catch them.

## All good news must come to an end

Believe it or not, there are many, many more mad stories from **News of the World**. Paul Sussman, at **The Big Issue** in London, continues to dig up his bizarre stories, and report them with his arcane twist. We have not been able to print them all here, partly because of Canadian sensitivity to British, shall we call it "toilet" humour.

This however, marks the last appearance of **News of the**

**World in Our Voice**. Because of reader response in our recent survey, we will be moving on to something new in this space. It is with some sadness, that we leave Paul Sussman's sense of the newsworthy behind. You, however, can get much more of it, if you haven't had enough, in Sussman's book: **The Big Issue's Death By Spaghetti**. Call London 0181-324-5585 or write **The Big Issue**, Fleet House, 57-61 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5NP.

Articles compiled by Paul Sussman in **The Big Issue**, London, England's street-sold magazine.

### ERMINEKIN TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Bigway Foods 585-3000	Ermineskin Blankets 585-4262	Maskwachees Mall 585-2600
Gas Bar 585-2498	Building Supplies 585-2165	Garments & Crafts 585-3750

"We encourage all native students  
in their pursuit of knowledge and education."

BOX 219, HOBBERMA, ALBERTA T0C 1N0  
1-800-851-5605

### Film Processing since 1956



- Slide Film Processing
- Black & White Film Processing
- Slides Made From Prints, negs etc.
- Copy Work From Color or B & W Originals
- Enlarging & Digital Imaging

**428-7714**

Mon - Fri - 7:30 am - 5:30 pm 10145 - 112 St.



**Bank where you belong.**

Visit one of our 12 locations today  
and discover the difference.

### Edmonton Northeast Bingo Association



7 Evenings, Doors open at 3 pm

— Matinees —

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

Afternoons doors open at 10 am

Satellite game at all events

12711 - 52 Street

Edmonton, AB T5A 4G2

Tel: 476-1239

May the Great Spirit be with you!

### Sacred Heart CHURCH of the FIRST PEOPLES



10821-96 Street, Edmonton, AB

422-3052

Fax 423-0176

Our our Station of the Cross  
Collector Series Postcards —Available Now



ALBERTA  
LEGISLATURE



**WAYNE  
CAO**, MLA Calgary Fort

Calgary: 2784 Glenmore Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta T2C-2E6

Ph: (403) 216-5454 Fx: (403) 216-5455

Edmonton: 9718 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K-1E1

Ph: (403) 415-0984 Fx: (403) 415-0951

E-mail: calgary\_fort@assembly.ab.ca

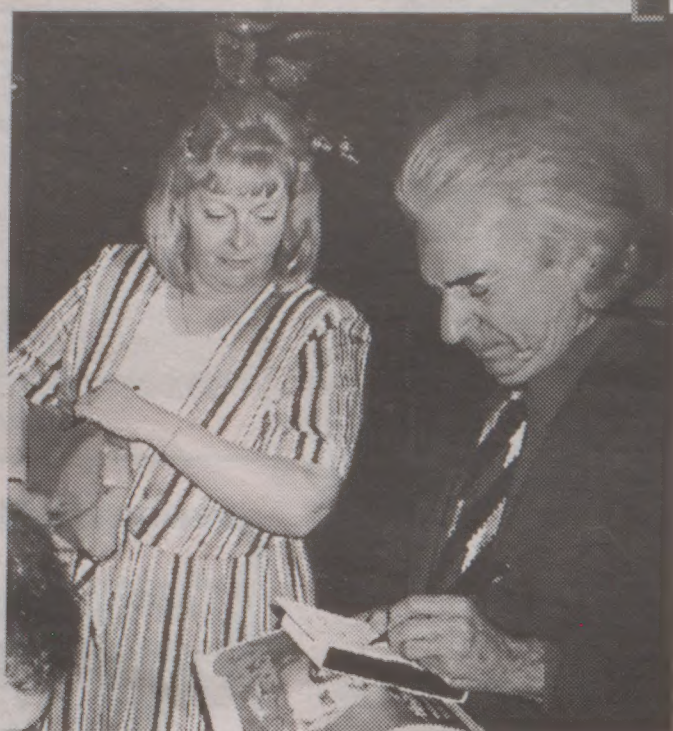


## JOHN'S STYLE FILE

# ARTHUR HILLER

Former President of the  
Academy of Motion Pictures  
Arts and Sciences.

*John Zapantis Our  
Voice vendor, writer  
and photographer  
meets the most  
interesting people.*



"Attitude is everything in today's world, and that's all that really matters. The rest is superficial," says Arthur Hiller, an Edmonton-born, Hollywood director.

Hiller originally made his big break as a director in 1955 and has since directed over 30 movies. Many of them are considered classics. They include "Love Story" starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw. Also the "Americanization of Emily", an anti-war film about a hero who was actually a coward, starring James Garner and Julie Andrews, as well as "Silver Streak" starring Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor.

Persistence and hard work have paid high dividends for this reputable and successful Canadian director. He served as the President of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences from 1993-1997.

Hiller was visiting his hometown recently for a special occasion at his elementary school Alex Taylor.

When asked how he would make changes to better life for people living in poverty, Hiller says, "We need to open doors for people to learn various crafts and professions that they are interested in. Also we have to keep to the values of loving people and caring about people for who they are as a person. Not for their background or their religion or their colour. Human beings are human beings and we should treat each other that way."

As far as his own career is concerned he considers "Love Story" to be his best work. He'll even go as far as taking it to his grave.

"I think my tombstone will read ARTHUR 'LOVE STORY' HILLER."

## Kind Supporters making Our Voice heard

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations whose support helps publish this magazine. We invite you to take your business to them as supportive community businesses and organizations.

### Acron Roofing and Consulting Ltd

1423-70 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T6P 1N5  
440-4140

### Wild Rose Consulting

3525-41 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T6L 5S5  
413-8280

### RBC Dominion Securities

10155 102 Street Suite  
2300  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 2P4  
944 8851

### A Cappella Catering

12704 110 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5M 2L7  
403 454 2642

### Alberta Traffic Supply Ltd.

7798 16 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6P 1L9  
403 440 4114

### Chief Automotive Distributors Ltd.

4920 99 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6E 3N6  
403 437 1030

### JA Matheson Equities

11914 129 Avenue  
Edmonton AB  
T5E 0N3  
403 455 6688

### Mr. Samosa Ltd.

9630 142 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5N 2N1  
403 451 5687

### Northern Alberta Prosthetic & Orthotic Services Ltd.

11024 127 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5M 0T2  
403 452 9513

### Priority One Human Resources

8625 112 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6G 1K8  
433 6811

### Sedgewick Limited

10130 103 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 3N9  
420 0777

### Prosthetics & Orthotics Care Company

10613-82 Street  
Edmonton AB  
T6A 3n2

### Wal-Mart Canada Inc.

375 Bellrose Drive  
St. Albert AB  
T8N 3K8  
458 1629

## Words on the Street

# Why I sell Our Voice

Rob Champion is well-known in Calgary for his famous bike trailer



### ROB CHAMPION

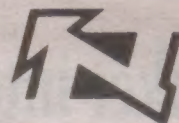
**O**ur Voice has given me a sense of self-worth and a real understanding of the world around me. It has given me back my self-esteem. It has given me back my relationship with my common-law wife. It has given me hope in what at times seems like a hopeless world. After four years I am still selling **Our Voice**. It has treated me well.

Most of us vendors are not addicts, drunks or live on the

streets. Some of us do have homes, pay bills and have a few modest luxuries. Although you can get by selling **Our Voice** with a lot of dedication and hard work, you will never get rich. If you have a friend or a partner to help with the rent and bills, you do get by comfortably. We **Our Voice** vendors are self-employed. It is our business and it's how we make a living. We deserve respect. I thank those who give us that.

Rob Champion sells Our Voice in Calgary.

## JOBS JUSTICE EQUALITY



## NORWESCO INDUSTRIES (1983) LTD.

6908 L - 6th Street SE  
Calgary Alberta T2H 2K4  
Bus 258-3883  
Res 249-7090  
Fax 403 259-5823



## BIG D RENTALS & SALES Oilfield Equipment

Canadian Distributor for Rotating B.O.P.

Edmonton: (403) 465-9081 Calgary: (403) 253-1054  
Edmonton Fax: (403) 466-5240 Calgary Fax: (403) 253-9006

The energy industry's pipe fitting and flange experts

## VAN LEEUWEN PIPE AND TUBE

2675 - 64th Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T6P 1R1  
Telephone: (403) 466-7410  
Telefax: (403) 466-5970



## ELIZABETH LANG

Insurance Consultants  
#3550-10180-101 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3S4  
(1987) Ltd. Tel: (403) 421-1777  
Fax: 420-1013



**NORWEST  
LABS**

Bay 6  
2712-37th Avenue NE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2Y 5L3  
1-800-661-1645

### Our Mission

Committed to excellence, innovation and working with clients in providing analytical and advisory service to solve today's problems and anticipate tomorrow's needs.

## CALGARY METAL (1985) LTD. Recycling since 1918

3415 Ogen Road SE  
Calgary, Alberta PHONE (403) 262-4542  
T2G 4N4 FAX (403) 262-1114

**WEIR  
BOWEN**  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

*Giving a hand up  
- not a hand out.*

1600  
Canada Trust Tower  
10104 - 103 Ave.  
Edmonton AB  
PH. (403) 424-2030

## DIGITAL LAND RESOURCES

LAND CAPABILITY / RESOURCE MGMT & PLANNING  
DIGITAL IMAGE ANALYSIS • TRAINING

PETER C. GEIB P. Ag

103 MAIN TERRACE  
SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA  
T8A 0R7

PHONE (403) 975-9407  
PH/FAX (403) 464-2287

**Kid's  
KOTTAGE**  
FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

## 24 HOUR CRISIS CARE NURSERY

EMERGENCY CARE FOR  
CHILDREN 0-10 WHOSE  
FAMILIES ARE IN CRISIS  
SITUATIONS. FOLLOW UP  
COUNSELLOR AND REFERRALS  
TO SUPPORT SERVICES.

944-2888

Donald Howden  
Managing Partner

**Gordon  
Private Client  
Corporation**

Scotia Place, Suite 1750 Tel: (403) 426-3200  
10080 Jasper Avenue Fax: (403) 426-3220  
Edmonton, Alberta Toll Free: 1-888-240-4722  
Canada T5J 3R8 dhowden@gordonprivate.com

**Aylieb Xaveriess**

Spiritual Advisor  
Medicine Card Tarot  
Channeling/Angel Listening  
Shamanic - Counseling

Call 482-4537 Astro Rescue

IN EDMONTON

# George Descheneaux

BY JOHN ZAPANTIS

"I sell **Our Voice** for income and for enjoyment. I like meeting people and it gives me some money to help me along my way," says George.

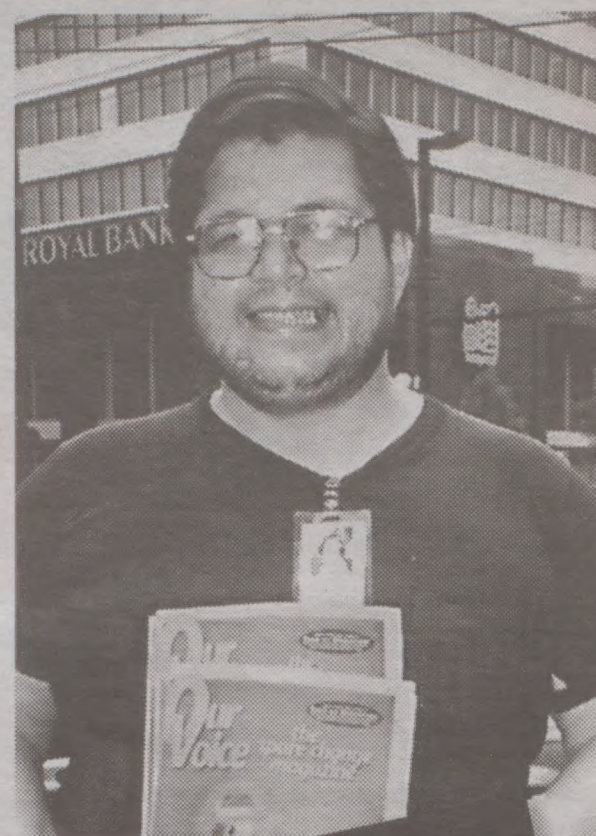
**Our Voice** has helped George's self-esteem.

"It has helped me improve my attitude and given me something positive to look forward to. I never realized how much people out there do care."

"My customers give me encouragement. Some of them tell me how proud they are to see someone out doing something, trying to better themselves."

George can be found selling at any of three locations in Edmonton. At 101 Street and Jasper Avenue, as well as two Save-on Foods locations at Mayfield Common on Stony Plain Road and on Calgary Trail. ♦

PHOTO: John Zapantis



**VENDOR  
Profile**

IN CALGARY

# Cora-Lynn

BY ELIZABETH MAKARRA

**Our Voice** has changed Cora-Lynn's life.

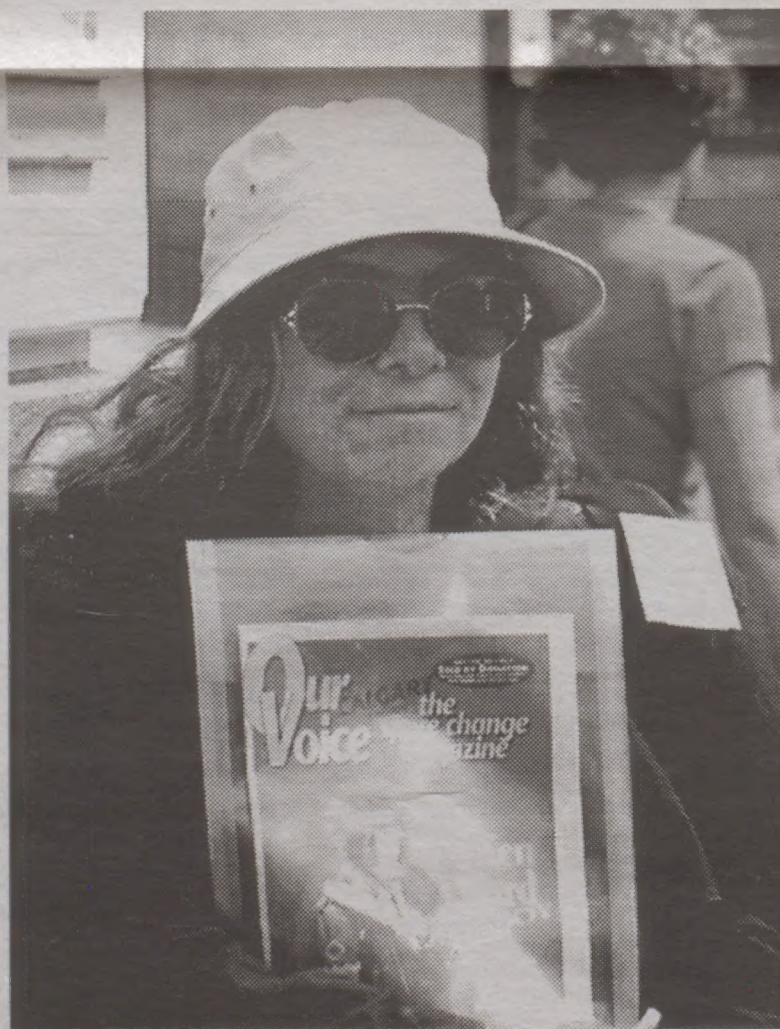
"For the first time I've been given the chance to actually talk to people - meet new people," says Cora-Lynn, an **Our Voice** vendor for the past two months.

Interacting with people on the streets has given Cora-Lynn a new sense of self worth.

"I'm really proud to be doing this," she says.

Cora-Lynn plans to keep vending with the hopes to save enough money to move out of her car into a house.

"I've got the prime selling spot on Stephen Avenue Mall and already have fifteen regular clients," says Cora-Lynn. "I enjoy the interaction with different people, it makes me feel good." ♦



EVERY  
Authorized vendor  
has a **BADGE!**

**Our  
Voice**



V  
E  
N  
D  
O  
R

Vendor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by \_\_\_\_\_

### OUR VOICE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized





# Housing Crisis

## Calgary City short of homes

BY ELIZABETH MAKARRA

"I've been on a working walkabout vacation for three years now and a lot of people aren't aware of what's actually going on now, because they expect it as every day life," says Bill Nagel with his dearest possessions slung over his shoulder, "myself is my home."

Calgary's population is growing and for about 3,800 Calgarians homelessness is a reality.

Winter is only four months away and people living on the streets are in dire need of housing before the cold settles in.

Louisiana Lefthand has been living on the streets for two years, sleeping in parks and Drop-In centres. Calgary is a growing city and times are tough for those who are trying to move their beds from park benches to houses they can call their own.

Tired and desperate for a place to live, Lefthand has applied to both of Calgary's Housing organizations with hopes to find permanent shelter before winter arrives.

The wait is long and frustrating, "I keep waiting and waiting but I don't know how long it will take, I'm tired and my head hurts, I need a place to live before the winter comes," says Lefthand. She is the wife of an emotionally abusive alcoholic who moves between the streets and centres attempting to leave her husband. "I'm still alive, nothing has happened to me yet."

With available housing scarce the number of people in need of shelter is increasing. Calgary's four Drop-In centres are full of people looking for a place to get some sleep and a bite to eat. But four in ten people are turned away from Calgary's shelters and the

two city housing agencies are flooded with applicants.

Calgary Housing Authority, a property management organization which manages government-subsidized rental housing has about 500 applicants on waiting lists.

CalHome Propitious, a Calgary non-profit organization provides affordable housing to low-income people. It has about 1100 people on its waiting list.

Population growth, a substantial drop in the vacancy rate and rent increases, all fuel the housing crisis, says Dale Stan, manager of CalHome Properties. Although there is no new public housing facilities under construction, about 500 Albertans gathered in Edmonton on June 15-16 for a symposium to discuss the future of Alberta's housing situation.

"There has to be a community awareness that there is a need out there and it is so important because without that awareness then you won't get the community to change and address the issue, so the more people that talk about homelessness the more the possibility that something will be done," says Terry Bradley director of administrative services at Calgary Housing.

The housing issue in Calgary is becoming more recognized and must be made a priority, "the issue is serious, very very serious," says Bradley.

Private landlords are raising their rent; there is money to be made from the people who are migrating into prosperous Calgary. People are willing to pay whatever they can to live in this growing city. It means that more low and no income people are getting lost in the shuffle, says Bill Nagel.

The housing needs of low income people seem unattainable these days and the struggles are consistent, "You don't steal from the poor," says Nagel.

## Edmonton

### Abandoned home

BY LINDA DUMONT

The walls and ceiling are peeling, the floor is littered with damaged objects, old furniture, newspapers, wrappers and old clothes. Flies enter through the broken window and buzz around.

This room in an abandoned house in the inner city is home to Monty and Brenda. There is no power, no heat, no indoor plumbing; just the partially burned out shell of a house.

They enter through a missing window, and pick their way across the littered burned out main floor, then climb a narrow staircase.

Brenda and Monty sit side by side on the rickety chairs, and Monty pulls a bottle out of his back pack.

"We've been here for three months," Monty says, "We were in another house before, but it burned down. We moved to another house but it burned down too. It's the sniffers. They follow us around. They built a bonfire in the middle of the room. That's why we don't want anyone to know where we are."

Brenda laughs. "I got pregnant in our new house. That's the first time I ever got pregnant in an abandoned house."

An outside tap on a nearby building provides Brenda and Monty with cold water for washing up.

Sometimes they eat at soup lines, but for money for food, tobacco and drinks, they pick bottles.

"That's how we survive," says Monty, "We sell bottles every day." He reaches into his backpack, and pulls out three empty bottles, then a small can of ham. "We eat whatever we can find in the garbage. This is what I got to eat today." He smiles shyly, "The fridge doesn't work."

Brenda earns some money working.

"I work as a chambermaid at a rooming house," she says, "I make about \$10 a day and he washes my clothes, too."

The room is hot, and has a strong foul odor. Brenda gets up and shuts the door, explaining that the bathroom across the hall contains the buckets used for a toilet.

Although they have little, Monty and Brenda are taking care of Brenda's street son who lives with them.

"We're looking after the boy. He's got arthritis," Brenda says.

Monty and Brenda never use any of the shelters. They have not applied for welfare.

"They would want me to work," Monty says. He doesn't feel that he is able to work, or even to go through all the steps needed to get on social assistance. For him it's just too big an obstacle.

They are planning on moving to Paddle Prairie so Monty can get work. He has been living on the street for ten



years, and he's getting tired of it.

"I can't keep this up anymore," He says, "I've got a wife. She's pregnant. I can't handle her being on the street. That's why I want to go."

They sit, huddled together, in the gathering darkness, survivors, getting by from day to day. In spite of their filthy clothes and foul surroundings, they have their love for one another, and pride in their independence. They are together, and they are managing on their own, without the system. ♦